



File Code: 1950-1

Date: September 26, 2005

Dear Interested Citizen,

After careful review of the Broadaxe Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact, public comments, related resource reports, and the project file I decided to authorize the salvage harvest of live and dead lodgepole pine on approximately 509 acres affected by mountain pine beetles in the Broadaxe Drainage of the St. Joe Ranger District. My decision also includes prescribed burning for fuels treatment and site preparation. Planting western larch and rust-resistant western white pine will be combined with natural regeneration to achieve desired stocking levels and species mix. Approximately one mile of temporary road will be needed for product removal and will be completely recontoured to the natural slope after use.

I am enclosing the Broadaxe Decision Notice, the Finding of No Significant Impact, the revised Environmental Assessment (EA), and the Response to Comments for your review. The Response to Comments includes the comments received during the 30-day comment period with the Forest Service's responses.

The St. Joe Ranger District completed the Broadaxe EA and made it available for public review and comment on May 18, 2005. Since then we revised the EA to correct some mistakes, respond to comments, provide clarification, and present the material in a more traditional EA format.

If you have questions or wish to discuss this project please contact District Ranger, Chuck Mark, at (208)245-2531. The Broadaxe Decision Notice, Finding of No Significant Impact, Environmental Assessment, and related documents are available at the St. Joe Ranger District St. Maries office (222 South 7th Street, Suite 1, St. Maries, ID). For those of you who have access to the internet, the main documents are available at the Idaho Panhandle National Forests website at: www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/eco/manage/nepa/index.

The decision is subject to administrative appeal. Details for appealing the decision are described at the end of the decision notice.

Thank you for your interest in the Broadaxe Project. While I realize I will not fully satisfy all public concerns, I believe my decision addresses the purpose and need of the project and the issues in ways that will improve forest conditions now and in the future.

Sincerely,

for
RANOTTA K. MCNAIR
Forest Supervisor

